

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 277857

47/53

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 NIC-01 BIB-01 SAJ-01 /069 R

66605

DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:BAFLATIN

APPROVED BY: EUR:JAARMITAGE

----- 127791

P R 191743Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 277857

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LINES OMITTED PARA 2, 4, 5,
6 AND 12)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AU, YO

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR BRIEFS DEPARTMENT ON BILATERAL
PROBLEMS WITH YUGOSLAVIA

1. ON DECEMBER 17, ARNO HALUSA, AMBASSADOR OF AUSTRIA,
VISITED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN A. ARMITAGE, EUR,
TO DISCUSS AUSTRIA'S CURRENT DISPUTE WITH YUGOSLAVIA OVER
THE CROAT MINORITY IN BURGENLAND AND OTHER BILATERAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 277857

PROBLEMS.

2. AMBASSADOR HALUSA PRESENTED MR. ARMITAGE WITH COPIES OF THE YUGOSLAV NOTE OF OCTOBER 29 AND THE AUSTRIANS' REPLY OF DECEMBER 2 (WHICH CONSTITUTE THE PRINCIPAL OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS THUS FAR IN THIS DISPUTE). HE DESCRIBED THE RECENT EXCHANGE AS OUT OF CHARACTER WITH THE GENERAL TREND OF VIENNA'S POSTWAR RELATIONS WITH YUGOSLAVIA, WHICH HE TERMED STABLE AND FRIENDLY. INDEED, CLAIMED THE AMBASSADOR, YUGOSLAV LEADERS IN THE PAST HAVE COMPLIMENTED AUSTRIA ON ITS ENLIGHTENED TREATMENT OF ITS SLAVIC MINORITIES, DESCRIBING THESE PEOPLES AS BEING AMONG THE BONDS WHICH LINK THE TWO COUNTRIES. AMBASSADOR HALUSA BELIEVED THAT YUGOSLAVIA HAD LAUNCHED ITS CURRENT CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM IN ORDER TO LET OFF STEAM IN

DOMESTIC POLITICS BY SETTING UP A FOREIGN POWER AS A STRAW MAN. HE OBSERVED THAT THE YUGOSLAVS WERE ALSO CRITICIZING ITALY'S TREATMENT OF ITS SLAVIC MINORITIES.

3. AMBASSADOR HALUSA SAID THE CURRENT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE DOES NOT CAUSE AUSTRIA ANY GREAT CONCERN. IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT BELGRADE CAN CALL UPON A MAJORITY OF FRIENDS IN THE UN FOR SUPPORT, AUSTRIA BELIEVES THAT ITS CASE RESTS UPON SOLID GROUND.

4. NOTING THAT EVEN THE AUSTRIA SLOVENES HAVE NEVER PRETENDED THAT THEY NUMBERED MORE THAN 60,000, AMBASSADOR HALUSA STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THE REAL FIGURE MIGHT BE CLOSER TO 15,000. NEVERTHELESS, AUSTRIA STILL AGREES THAT A MINORITY SHOULD ENJOY ITS RIGHTS, NO MATTER WHAT ITS SIZE. HE REPORTED THAT 88 PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND 24 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTHEASTERN AUSTRIA OFFER TRAINING IN THE SLOVENE LANGUAGE. FURTHERMORE, SINCE 1957 THERE HAS BEEN A GYMNASIUM IN KLAGENFURT WHICH OFFERS STUDIES EXCLUSIVELY IN SLOVENE. DURING THE 1973-74 SCHOOL YEAR, THERE WERE 474 STUDENTS IN THIS SCHOOL. THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT IS NOW EXPENDING \$2.5 MILLION TO EXPAND ITS FACILITIES TO A CAPACITY OF 650.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 277857

5. AS FOR THE CROATS IN BURGENLAND, AMBASSADOR HALUSA CLAIMED THAT CROAT MAYORS IN THAT LAND HAD RECENTLY REJECTED ANY SPECIAL CULTURAL TREATMENT. THE BURGENLAND FORM OF CROATIAN IS ONLY TAUGHT AS AN OPTIONAL "FOREIGN LANGUAGE" BECAUSE IT IS ARCHAIC AND UNLIKE MODERN CROATIAN.

6. AMBASSADOR HALUSA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT

AUSTRIA HAD TO BE CANDID ABOUT ONE SHORTCOMING, HOWEVER-- AUSTRIA'S INABILITY TO KEEP BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS ERECTED. SUCH SIGNS ARE PROVIDED FOR BY LAW, AND ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO INSTALL THEM IN SLOVENE AREAS. GERMAN NATIONALISTS TEAR THEM DOWN, HOWEVER-- AND "IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONTROL ALL ILLEGAL ACTS." AMBASSADOR HALUSA OBSERVED THAT IT FREQUENTLY TAKES A LONG TIME BEFORE A GOVERNMENT CAN PURSUADE ITS PEOPLE TO TOLERATE A CERTAIN SITUATION.

7. ALTHOUGH AUSTRIA IS REMISS IN THE ROAD SIGN ISSUE, NOTED AMBASSADOR HALUSA, THAT IS A SMALL MATTER COMPARED TO VIENNA'S SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE OTHER AREAS OF CULTURAL AND POLITICAL BENEFITS OFFERED THE SLOVENES AND CROATS. FURTHERMORE, YUGOSLAVIA IS APPARENTLY OVERLOOKING THE GREAT ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF ITS RELATION-

SHIP WITH AUSTRIA. EVERY YEAR 600,000 AUSTRIAN TOURISTS VISIT YUGOSLAVIA, SPENDING HARD CURRENCY. 200,000 YUGOSLAVS WORK IN AUSTRIA, SENDING REMITTANCES HOME. (ALTHOUGH ALIENS, THE LATTER EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN AUSTRIAN UNION AND ARBEITERKAMMER ELECTIONS.)

8. TURNING TO THE SENSITIVE ISSUE OF THE UPCOMING "MINORITY CENSUS," AMBASSADOR HALUSA DESCRIBED IT AS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE EXACTLY HOW MANY PEOPLE REGARD LANGUAGES OTHER THAN GERMAN AS THEIR PRIMARY TONGUE-- AND WHERE THEY LIVE (IN ORDER TO DETERMINE, INTER ALIA, WHERE TO PLACE BILINGUAL ROAD SIGNS). REJECTING THE YUGOSLAV ARGUMENT THAT THE 1955 STATE TREATY DID NOT PROVIDE FOR SUCH A CENSUS, AMBASSADOR HALUSA DESCRIBED THIS COUNT AS A SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF AN INDEPENDENT STATE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 277857

9. MR. ARMITAGE THANKED AMBASSADOR HALUSA FOR HIS PRESENTATION, AND STATED THE US HOPE THAT THESE ISSUES CAN BE WORKED OUT SATISFACTORILY ON A BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND YUGOSLAVIA, BOTH BEING COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE SHARE GOOD RELATIONS. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR WHETHER THERE IS ANY SUBSTANTIAL LEVEL OF POPULAR TENSION OVER THIS PROBLEM. AMBASSADOR HALUSA ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS SOME, EXPLOITED TO A CERTAIN DEGREE BY LOCAL POLITICIANS. HE DESCRIBED PRO-GERMAN ORGANIZATIONS IN CARINTHIA WHICH HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN FRICTION WITH YUGOSLAVIA SINCE THE 1920'S (AND WHICH INCLUDE SOME EX-NAZIS). THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA ALSO HAS USED THIS ISSUE TO BECOME THE MAJORITY PARTY IN CARINTHIA-- BUT THIS NOW CAUSES SOME INTERNAL PROBLEMS FOR THE PARTY.

10. MR. ARMITAGE ASKED WHETHER THE YUGOSLAVS HAD YET RESPONDED TO KREISKY'S DECEMBER 10 INVITATION TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THEY HAD NOT. HE THOUGHT THAT BELGRADE MIGHT BE HOLDING OUT UNTIL AUSTRIA GIVES UP ITS CENSUS PLANS.

11. MR. ARMITAGE NEXT ASKED ABOUT YUGOSLAV ALLEGATIONS THAT MUCH CROAT TERRORIST ACTIVITY STEMS OUT OF AUSTRIA. AMBASSADOR HALUSA DENIED THAT AUSTRIA PERMITS SUCH ACTIVITY. HE STATED THAT THE AUSTRIAN POLICE COOPERATE WITH THE YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES IN CONTROLLING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR.

12. ASKED BY MR. ARMITAGE WHETHER AUSTRIA BELIEVED THAT YUGOSLAVIA MIGHT ELEVATE THIS DISPUTE TO A HIGHER, MULTILATERAL LEVEL, AMBASSADOR HALUSA REPLIED THAT THEY

MIGHT TRY TO "INTERNATIONALIZE" IT, OBSERVING THAT THE YUGOSLAVS ALREADY HAD DISCUSSED CERTAIN ASPECTS IN THE DECEMBER 2 SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S THIRD COMMITTEE. HE NOTED THAT SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION "WON'T BE A GREAT HELP IN RESOLVING THE PROBLEMS."

13. UPON HIS DEPARTURE, AMBASSADOR HALUSA STATED THAT THE PURPOSE FOR HIS VISIT HAD BEEN TO INFORM THE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 277857

DEPARTMENT ABOUT AUSTRIA'S SIDE OF THESE QUESTIONS. AUSTRIA HOPED TO BE ABLE TO SETTLE THE VARIOUS ISSUES DIRECTLY WITH THE YUGOSLAVS, ONCE THE LATTER AGREE TO TALKS. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINORITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE277857
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/CE:BAFLATIN
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740369-0849
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741222/aaaaasfo.tel
Line Count: 205
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR BRIEFS DEPARTMENT ON BILATERAL PROBLEMS WITH YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, AU, YO, (ARMITAGE, JOHN A)
To: VIENNA BELGRADE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005